



Mustang Memo

Brought to you by the McCarty PTA

Volume 20, Issue 5

February 2010

From the PTA President, Tracy Garcia

Hi Everyone!

Happy New Year! Why is it that the school year seems to fly by, but winter seems to last forever? How can we get our families through these cold days? By attending some of the many great events brought to you by the PTA in the next few months, including the Spring Owen/McCarty Children's Resale, Girl's Sweetheart Tea, Family Skate Night and the Mother & Son Night! Keep an eye out for more information coming home in backpack mail, in the Mustang Memo or posted on our school website.

Thank you to everyone who attended our January PTA meeting. School Board Secretary Christine Vickers gave a great talk on what's going on in the district. It was great to hear the variety of questions that were asked of her as well. Because there was so much to talk about and we ran out of time we have asked for her to come back in March.

During the January meeting, we also asked for volunteers to join the nominating committee. Their job is to come up with a slate of officers for the coming year. If you are interested in volunteering a few short hours to help select our next year's board, please contact me at craze4@comcast.net. I know it's somewhat intimidating to take charge of a committee or even be on one: however, we truly work as a team. No one is left on their own to do all the work.

Have a great month!

From the Principal, Ms. Earlenbaugh:

I personally want to thank each of you for your time, energy and teamwork in making McCarty School the best place to learn, work and have fun. For the past five years I've had the pleasure of being the principal of McCarty. Each day I enjoy waking up knowing that I have the privilege of coming to school to work with the children, staff and parents/guardians to help build the foundation and pave the way to a bright future for all of us. I am continually impressed with the collaborative working relationship we have with our PTA and community members. The partnership we experience, in my opinion, comes from trust, a willingness to listen to new ideas, and always keeping our kids first in any decision that is made. We've accomplished a great deal so far this school year while working through challenging times but never forgetting to celebrate our successes along the way.

Our first semester has come to a close, the winter CBMs for reading and math have been completed for all of our students, ACCESS testing for our English language learners is completed, and third quarter is well on its way. **The ISAT/IAA assessments for third, fourth, and fifth graders will begin March 1st-5th** with makeup testing dates being scheduled the following week. We're excited as a learning community to show the state and our learning community

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Mark Your Calendar:

Girls' Sweetheart Tea
Saturday, Feb. 6

Open House
Thursday, Feb. 18

Resale
Saturday, Feb. 27
Owen Elementary
School

McCarty Elementary School

3000 Village Green Dr.; Aurora, IL 60504

<http://mccarty.ipisd.org>

Phone:
(630) 375-3400

Fax:
(630) 375-3401

Attendance
(630) 375-3415

Principal's Letter (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

how much we know and have learned while in school. The following are some ways you can help support your child as they prepare for any test.

2010 ISAT and Helpful Hints to Assist Your Child with Test Taking

In mid-February, letters explaining the assessments will be coming home to all third, fourth and fifth grade students. These assessments are our school's report card. The State decides from the results on these assessments if our students are making adequate yearly progress in reading and math. Through the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, adequately yearly progress percentages increases each year until all public schools nationally have 100% of their students meeting or exceeding on their state tests in reading and math by 2014. Even though I am not an advocate for "high stakes testing", I do understand the need to hold public schools accountable for what they do. It is very important that our students take these assessments seriously and do their best on the ISAT.

During this testing period, we ask your cooperation in encouraging student attendance and minimizing absences. While these tests are not tests for which a student can study, the following tips will help ensure your child performs to the best of his/her ability.

Please encourage your child to:

- * Get a good night's rest.
- * Eat a nutritious breakfast each day.
- * Avoid scheduling doctor or dentist appointments.
- * If time is available, encourage them to review their answers if there is still time remaining in the test session.
- * Bring appropriate reading material for silent reading in the event of early completion of tests.
- * Try their best and think positively about their achievement.
- * Remember that when we have done our best; we should just wait the results in peace.

Many adults, as well as children, experience some level of nervousness or tension before tests or during other important events in our lives. A little nervousness can actually help motivate us; however, too much of it can become a problem especially if it interferes with our ability to prepare for and/or perform to our greatest potential on tests.

Talk with your child if you have noticed any test anxiety with him/her. Explain there are three components of test anxiety. The

physical component involves the typical bodily reactions to acute anxiety; a knot in the stomach, wet and/or trembling hands, butterflies in the stomach, an ache in the neck or shoulders, dry mouth, pounding heart, etc. The emotional component involves the fear or panic. One student put it, "I become completely unglued!" The mental or cognitive components of test anxiety involve problems with attention and memory. "My mind jumps from one thing to another." "I'm so sure I'm going to fail." "I'm not smart enough to do it."

Regardless of how many or how intense the symptoms are that a student may experience, the bottom line is that we need to remember the child wants to do well so their parents, teachers, and other significant adults in their lives will be proud of them.

As students navigate their way through their educational journey, here are a few tips you can share with your child on how to master test anxiety:

- * Avoid thinking of yourself in all-or-nothing terms.
- * Reward yourself after the test. Visit a friend, go out and play, read a favorite book.
- * Work at a consistent and moderate pace when studying or taking a test.
- * If waiting for the test to begin causes anxiety, distract yourself by closing your eyes and imagine yourself answering the questions confidently, or take a few slow deep breaths.
- * First scan the entire test and then read the directions TWICE.
- * For multiple choice questions, read ALL the options first, then eliminate the two most obvious. If you're still unsure of the correct answer, rely on your first impression and move on.
- * Beware of tricky qualifying words such as only, always or most.
- * Don't worry when students start closing their booklets or turning tests in. There is no reward for being the first done.
- * Know in your heart that anything is possible!
- * Success is achieved by those who try and keep trying.
- * Don't forget to celebrate your child's good effort.

The most important things we can give our children are our love, support, and our time. As we celebrate our continued learning, the pillar of CARING, and Black History during the month of February, be sure to budget ample time for family togetherness and fun. I also want to wish you and your family a very Happy Valentine's Day! Thanks for keeping our kids first!

Thank you to everyone for coming out to the Mustang Family Hoe Down! We had a great time and it was great to see everyone there! We collected \$53.75 in donations in our "McCarty Helps Haiti" jar...thank you for your generosity! Donations will be sent to the American Red Cross to help in relief efforts in Haiti

The next great PTA sponsored event is the Girls' Sweetheart Tea! Saturday, February 6th from 9-11am. Look for more details to come in backpack mail.

The Literacy Corner

How Do I Talk to My Children About What They Are Reading?

Making Connections

Children make personal connections with text by using their background knowledge. Helping students connect to the text will help them to better understand what they are reading. (Harvey & Goudvis, 2000). Here are some suggestions on how you can help your children make connections and increase their understanding of what they are reading.

General connecting statements:

This part reminds me of....

I felt like...(character) when I....

If that happened to me I would....

This book reminds me of...(another text) because....

I can relate to...(part of text) because one time....

Something similar happened to me when..

There are three main types of connections we make while reading text. Here are some questions to help your child make each of those connections.

Text-to-self: refers to connections made between the text and the reader's personal experience.

What does this remind me of in my life?

What is this similar to in my life?

How is this different from my life?

Has something like this ever happened to me?

How does this relate to my life?

What were my feelings when I read this?

Text-to-text refers to connections made between a text being read to a text that was previously read.

What does this remind me of in another book I've read?

How is this text similar to other things I've read?

How is this different from other books I've read?

Have I read about something like this before?

Text-to-world: refers to connections made between a text being read and something that occurs in the world.

What does this remind me of in the real world?

How is this text similar to things that happen in the real world?

How is this different from things that happen in the real world?

How did that part relate to the world around me?

The above information is from the busy teacher café website at: http://www.busyteacherscafe.com/teacher_resources/literacy_pages/comprehension_strategies.htm

Mark Your Calendar:

The McCarty/Owen PTAs'

Spring/Summer Children's Clothing, Toy and Equipment Resale

Saturday, February 27

7-11 am with a half-price sale follows from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Numbers will be given out at 6 a.m.

Owen Elementary, 1560 Westglen Drive, Naperville.

Pick up some great deals and help out the PTAs for both McCarty and Owen!

FEBRUARY SALE:

When: Saturday, Feb. 27

Where: McCarty Gym

Time: 9:30 – 10:00

Online order due: 2/24 noon

Order online until NOON on February 24. Our January pick-up is January 30. We look forward so seeing your at our sale!

Thank you to everyone who supported our January Market Day sale! Cookie Dough Bonus Days are here in February for a limited time only with nine delicious flavors. Look for your order guide to come home soon or visit marketday.com to order today!

If you have questions or would like to volunteer at a sale, please direct call Julie Hoffman at (630) 236-9981.



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PTA[®]
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Nominating Committee: Assist with determining a new slate of officers for the upcoming school year.

Publishing Center: assist in running an in-house publishing center for books written by our students (Typing available for those who want to work at home).

Resale Committee: assist in the coordination and running of this event that sells children's clothing, toys and equipment now located at McCarty.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions regarding any of the positions above. Please contact Tracy Garcia at craze4@comcast.net or 630-375-9738.

Collection Corner

Thank you Mustangs for turning in all of your Box Tops and Tyson labels. This is an easy way to get money for our school. Just a reminder on what you should turn in:



Box Tops – Make sure the Box Tops are not expired. Unfortunately they will not accept expired labels. You can use the collection sheets but it's not necessary. Make sure you have either your Box Tops sheet or bag labeled with the teachers name so your child's class gets the credit. They could win a PopIce party! Check out

www.boxtops4education.com for contests, coupons and recipes.



Tyson Project A+ labels – Make sure the entire 123 label is turned in. If it doesn't say 123 then Tyson won't accept it. Go to www.tyson.com/projectaplus/ for a list of products and to see what the labels look like.



CHICAGOLAND & NORTHWEST INDIANA

Ronald McDonald House Charities – Any pop tab works. It could be from soup cans, pop cans or any other can that has a pull tab. They are a wonderful organization to be a part of. If you are interested in finding out more about what they do you could visit

www.rmhcni.org/



Thank you to all who raided their shelves for Campbell's label points. We made our goal! Please continue to send in Campbell's labels and remember to always include the UPC. Besides finding them on soups and goldfish crackers, they're also on Prego jars, Campbell's juices, and some Pepperidge Farms items. Searching for Campbell's labels at your house would be a great cold weather project to keep your kids busy!

Keep up the great work!

2009-2010 McCarty PTA Board

President

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craze4@comcast.net

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tntslater@sbcglobal.net

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Amy. Keppler@sbcglobal.net

3rd Vice President

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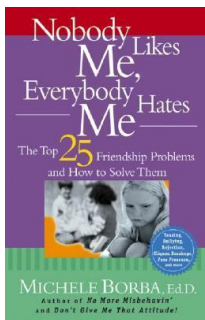
Ways & Means Chairperson

LeAnn Gonzalez 630-820-1577
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Parent Library – January Spotlight

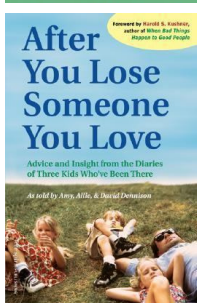
The McCarty Library Media Center (LMC) has a fantastic “Parents Only” section of books. We have books about topics important to parents including allergies, asthma, autism, bullying, cancer, cyber-safety, death, discipline, divorce, gifted, obesity, procrastination, puberty, reading, special needs, and many more! Some books are even storybooks that you can read with your student.

Every month we feature several books from the “Parents Only” section. You can also find a complete listing of these books on our website at <http://mccarty.ipisd.org/lmc.asp>, under Downloadable Documents, select Parent Library Books. If you would like to check any of our books out, stop by the LMC or contact the LMC at michelle_johnson@ipisd.org or 630-375-3407. If the LMC is closed, please fill out the form on the parent library shelf.



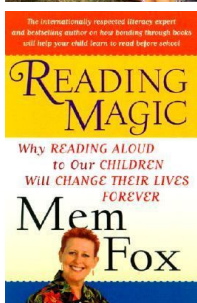
Nobody likes me, everybody hates me: the top 25 friendship problems by Michele Borba

“Do you wish your kid had more friends or could keep the ones she has? Is teasing, gossiping, bullying, or cyber-bullying a problem? Is she often left out or rejected by other kids? Does he just follow the crowd? Are you concerned about his friends? Does she complain that she's unpopular or that nobody likes her? Are you at a loss for how to help your child handle those play dates, sleepovers, being shy, too sensitive, too competitive, or having a bad reputation? Look no further. The resource you need to solve these problems and boost your child's social competence is in your hands. Based on a survey of five thousand teachers and parents, *Nobody Likes Me* shows how to teach your child the 25 most essential friendship-building skills kids need to find, make, and keep friends, as well as survive that social pressure from peers.”



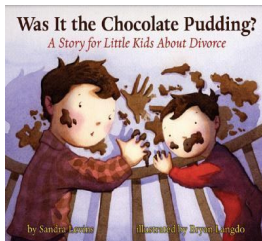
After you lose someone you love : advice and insight from the diaries of three kids who've been there by Amy Dennison

“This is a journal about what happened to us.... One night, Dad just died and that was that. Twins Amy and Allie were eight years old and their brother David was four when their beloved father died suddenly in his sleep. Encouraged and guided by their mother, the three children kept a journal for almost two years. They wrote about the night he died, the funeral, the first week, the first year, the cemetery, their thoughts and feelings-and the future. Their real-life account is an honest, insightful, and deeply moving perspective on death, its aftermath, and the journey through grief and growth.”



Reading magic : why reading aloud to our children will change their lives forever by Mem Fox

Bestselling author and literacy expert Mem Fox reveals the incredible emotional and intellectual impact reading aloud to children has on their ability to learn to read. All parents want and expect their children to learn to read, but few realize they can get their kids on the road to reading long before they start school simply by reading aloud to them every day. With passion and humor, acclaimed author and internationally respected literacy expert Mem Fox tells readers how she herself became aware of the astonishing effects that reading aloud and bonding through books have on very young children. She speaks of when, where, and why to read aloud and demonstrates how to read aloud to best effect and how to get the most out of a read-aloud session. She walks readers through the three secrets of reading which together make reading possible. She gives guidance on defining, choosing, and finding good books and closes with tips on dealing effectively with the challenges that sometimes arise when children are learning to read. Filled with practical advice, activities, and inspiring true read-aloud miracles, this book is a must for every parent-and for anyone interested in how children learn to read.



A storybook to read with your student:

Was it the chocolate pudding? : a story for little kids about divorce by Sandra Levins

“With childlike innocence and humor, a young narrator living with his single father and brother explains divorce and it's grown-up words like ‘New Arrangement’, ‘Ideal Situation’, and ‘Differences’ from a kid's point-of-view. Special emphasis is placed on the fact that divorce is not the child's fault, that it is a grown-up problem. Deals with practical day-to-day matters such as single-family homes, joint custody, child-care issues, and misunderstandings.”

WVHS Band, Orchestra and Choir will be having their 7th Annual Spring Mulch Sale. It will run from February 3rd through February 17th. Look for a WVHS high school student in your neighborhood who is involved in Band, Orchestra or Choir and they could get you set up with your spring needs. Many of these WVHS high school students make a percentage of the profits that fund their personal accounts for enriching trips, instrument repairs and private lessons. Won't you help?

Questions you can call our mulch hotline at 630-898-5581.

LMC Update



The **THIRD READING INCENTIVE** of the school year starts February 1st and runs until February 26th. Students are reading towards a FREE Great America ticket. If you need a sheet it can be found on the McCarty LMC website at <http://mccarty.ipdsd.org/lmc.asp>. Be sure to turn in those completed sheets on March 1st. Due to strict guidelines from Great America, we cannot accept late tally sheets for any reason. Tickets will be sent home at the end of May to those students who read the 360 minutes.

Let's **GET CAUGHT READING!** The LMC is building a wall of readers. Take a picture of your student reading and either send it to school via backpack mail or email it to me at michelle_johnson@ipdsd.org. Please let me know the student name and class when sending in the picture. Pictures sent to school will not be returned. Let's fill our wall with interesting readers reading awesome books!!

Watch backpack mail for information about our **ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE BAKE SALE!** Bakers are needed to back yummy goodies such as cookies, brownies, and dipped pretzels. All proceeds earned from our bake sale will be used to purchase new 2010 Almanacs for the library.

Students will be voting at the end of this month for their favorite **MONARCH NOMINEE BOOK** if they are in grades kindergarten through third grade. Students that are in fourth and fifth grades will be voting for their favorite **REBECCA CAUDILL NOMINEE BOOK**. Remember students need to have read or heard at least 3 of the 20 nominated books to vote for their favorite Rebecca Caudill Nominee and 5 of the 20 nominated books to vote for their favorite Monarch Nominee book. If you need a list of nominated books please refer to the December Mustang Memo.

Our **2ND BOOK FAIR** will be held in March and the LMC needs help to make this a success. The fair will be open both Tue 3/16 and Thu 3/18 from 4:30-7:00pm for families to shop. To volunteer, please email me at michelle_johnson@ipdsd.org or call the LMC at 630-375-3407. This is when we need help and what we need help with:

Date	Time	Task
Tue 3/16	4:00-7:00	Run the checkout stations
Tue 3/16	4:30-7:00	Bag purchases
Tue 3/16	4:30-5:45	Assist in the book fair
Tue 3/16	5:45-7:00	Assist in the book fair
Thu 3/18	4:00-7:00	Run the checkout stations
Thu 3/18	4:30-7:00	Bag purchases
Thu 3/18	5:45-7:00	Assist in the book fair
Thu 3/18	4:30-7:00	Assist in the book fair

Keep reading!
Michelle Johnson
 LMC Director

National PTA Reflections Program Update:



As you may remember, 34 entries from McCarty advanced to the District 204 level for judging in the National PTA Reflections Program.

Of those 34, 6 advanced to the next level, PTA Unit 36 (a group of local school districts). Please congratulate the following 6 students: Teague Stotlar (K-Bown), Antonio Houston (1-Grommon), Dhruv Dole, (2-Soldana), Aiden Schmitz (3-Lassandrello), Ujjiith Yogewaran (3-Cetnar) and Laura Schmidt (4-Avallone). We will keep you posted as the competition continues.

It's not too late to start thinking about what you might submit for next year's project - the theme for the 2010/2011 Reflections Program will be: "Together We Can."

Membership

Please welcome the following new McCarty PTA members: Maryam Ghafoor, Kristin Lewis, Ilona Truckenbrod and Jean Whiteside.

Mustang Memo Submissions

The Mustang Memo is a service to the McCarty community that is provided by the McCarty PTA. The purpose of the Mustang Memo is to deliver all McCarty news to our families.

If you have anything that you would like to have included in an issue, please send it to Julie Manecke via backpack mail or at Julie.manecke@sbcglobal.net.

The deadline for each month's publication is the 15th of the month prior. March's deadline is February 15th. The issue should be distributed around March 1st via list serve email or you can pick up a copy in the office.

Please direct any questions, comments or suggestions to Julie Manecke at 630-692-0179 or at the above email address.

Congratulations Second Quarter Positive Referral Recipients!

Daniel Amaning	Ashley Gallinati	Luis Mendieta	Kayla Slater
Yasmin Anglada	Jessica Garcia	Amber Myers	Brindet Socrates
Zoe Authement	Melena Giles	Jeremy Nuebeck	Briana Solano
Deshawn Ayanechi	David Gonzalez	Michelle Pacheco	Sydney Specht
Ashley Bautista	Kayla Greifenkamp	Grace Palmeri	Quincy Stotlar
Omar Beard	Ishaan Gupta	Keshawn Pankey	Joey Sweeney
Matthew Bednarz	Kate Hahenberg	Marina Pascual	Daniel Tornero
Isabel Butler	Conner Hansen	Meet Patel	Jacob Truckenbrod
Abhishek Bhat- tacharjee	Inshal Haque	Kendre Pegues	Guadalupe Vallejo
Alyssa Blaszyński	Yasharah Hashmi	Jourdan Penn	Mykal VanBuren
MacKenzie Bon	Kannon Hayes	Matthew Peters	Jamari Wagner
Jasmyne Brown	Ryan Huff	Jaquarius Phillips	Alec Wallbruch
Andy Buckingham	Abby Hunt	Tania Phillips	Keana Weaver
Maxwell Benard	Taveala Jordan	Chandler Pingel	Halle Williams
Ruben Campos	Alison Keppler	Devin Pyla	Matthew Williamson
Angie Chen	Michael Kerivan	Alek Radicevich	Elizabeth Zdenovec
Eric Chen	Daija Kittling	Kenny Ramirez	Nicholas Zdenovec
Nishita Chintalapudi	Daniela Knapp	Angelina Ruiz	
Leah Coll	Andrea Knepper	Pranaya Sachdeva	
Jada Cook	Natalie Knepper	Ibrahim Saifullah	
Aaliyh Cortez	Elijah Lee	Nishit Samarth	
Shanel Curry	Angelica Lozano	Sabrina S. San- Miguel	
Anakin Dey	Njya Lubang	Eric Saucedo	
Gianna DiCristofano	Olivia McCarthy	Avonte Scott	
Kartik Doddikindi	Kathryn McCormick	Prathik Senthil	
Ben Fox	Lauren Madamba	Alexis Silva	
	Jadyn Madrigal		



Thanks Partners!

**We would like to thank the following companies for their support
in sponsoring *McCarty Elementary School***



Airtastic—850 S. Frontenac, Aurora (630) 851-7525



American Veterinary Medical Foundation, Chicago, IL



AT Home Construction—355 Meadow Lakes Blvd., Aurora, (630) 397-9535



Blueberry Hill Pancake House—405 North Eola Rd., Aurora, (630) 499-1500



Boutique Repeats & Gifts—444 Eola Rd., Aurora (630) 585-0920



Big Apple Bagels—2616-A Ogden Ave., Aurora, (630) 375-9822



Chasers Laser Tag & Paintball, www.chasertag.com, (630) 851-6930

Cookie Cutters—3224 S. Rt. 59, Naperville Suite - 116, (630) 904-4FUN (4386)

Culvers—509 S. Route 59, Aurora, (630) 978-8709

"Your Neighborhood Pancake House"



Curry Leaf—1904 Brookdale Rd., Naperville, (630) 305-9800



Dairy Queen—2966 Ogden Ave., Aurora (630) 851-8444

Eatza Pizza! - Meadow Lakes Plaza, 3450 Montgomery Road, Aurora, (630) 898-8234



Eola Dental—405 N. Eola Rd., Aurora Suite L, (630) 236-6300



Fox Valley Park District—555 South Eola Rd., Aurora, (630) 851-8990

Francesca's Passaggio—3124 South Route 59, Naperville, (630) 946-0600

Indian Prairie Animal Hospital—621 South Route 59, Aurora, (630) 820-6999

The Jel-Sert Company—Route 59 & Conde Street, West Chicago, (630) 876-4838

J & J Construction—3682 Prairie Lake Ct., Aurora Unit—E, (630) 851-8830

Prudential Elite Realtors "Sue Vidmar" 1867 Bay Scott Circle, Naperville, (630) 388-2000

Stay & Play 4428 E. New York St., Aurora, (630) 499-9144

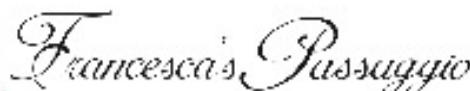
Stews Barber Shop—2982 Ogden Ave., Aurora, (630) 851-0777



The Cleanery—2974 Ogden Ave., Aurora (630) 851-5858

WENDY'S—2600 Ogden Ave., Aurora, (630) 820-3641

Yogen fruz—Fox Valley Shopping Center, www.yogenfruz.com



FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Caring	2 No School	3	4 100th Day	5	6 Girls' Sweetheart Tea 9:00-11:00 am
7	8 Courtesy	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 No School Presidents Day	16 Compassion Young Author Entries Due	17	18 Open House 6:30-8:00 pm	19	20
21	22 Empathy	23	24	25 2nd Grade Program	26 No School Institute Day	27 Resale at Owen Market Day
28						